



Briefing on Education Opportunities as a Complementary Pathway for Admission to Third Countries

Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva

28 May 15:00—16:30 (Geneva time)

Held Virtually via Webex

Background

The [Three-year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways](#) includes the growth and expansion of complementary pathways for admission to third countries as one of its primary goals. [Complementary Pathways for Admission](#) represent a unique confluence of partners and initiatives designed to increase access to protection and solutions by making third country solutions, including education pathways. By harnessing refugees' existing capacities and skills and expanding opportunities to acquire new skills, knowledge and qualifications, complementary pathways position refugees to be better able to contribute to their own sustainable futures, build inclusive societies and be prepared to become the next generation of leaders.

As the UNHCR announced, the new target of enrolling 15% of refugees in tertiary education by 2030 (against the current 3%), the expansion of complementary education pathways is timely and integral to achieving this goal. The gap in tertiary education is particularly alarming. For long-term stability and prosperity, young people facing humanitarian crises need quality education, job-relevant training and vocational skills. There is a critical need for innovation and partnerships to raise the level of access to tertiary education and ensure that at least half of those gaining access are women. Some ongoing projects such as the Rapid Response Mechanism for Higher Education in Emergencies (RRM) supported by Portugal; the World University Service Canada (WUSC); or the Habesha programme in Mexico are successful education schemes that are scalable and replicable and can feed the reflections of the Global Education Pathways Task Force to be set up under the auspices of the UNHCR.

Objectives and format of the briefing:

The briefing will be an information sharing and discussion session aimed at introducing the Global Education Pathways Task Force, while soliciting other states interest to join. The Briefing will provide participants with evidence-based practices successfully developed by several countries and entities. It will be also an occasion for participants to engage in a meaningful, in-depth discussion about higher education opportunities as complementary pathways for admission to third countries.

The briefing will be co-hosted by Ambassador Moraes Cabral, Special Envoy for Higher Education in Emergencies at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Portugal and Ambassador Rui Macieira, Permanent Representative of Portugal in Geneva.

Reference Documents:

- [WUSC, UNHCR and UNESCO, Doubling our Impact, Third Country Higher Education Pathways for Refugees, February 2020](#)
- [UNHCR, Higher Education Considerations for Refugees in Countries Affected by the Syria and Iraq Crisis, July 2015](#)
- [Higher Education in Emergencies: on the Road to 2030, by the Global Platform for Syrian Students, January 2030](#)

Registration:

Please register for the session by completing the [registration form](#). The connection details via Webex will be provided following your registration.